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(54) **METHOD OF TREATING AN
INTERVERTEBRAL DISK**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(58) Field of Search **606/92, 93, 94;**
623/17.16, 17.11, 23.62, 23.61

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A process of injecting a thermoplastic material (20) within
an annulus fibrosus of a selected intervertebral disk. The
thermoplastic material (20) is heated by an injection device
to a predetermined high temperature to provide flow of the
thermoplastic material from a needle into the annulus fibro-
sus of the disk upon injection. After injection, the thermo-
plastic material is cooled by the body temperature of the
patient for setting of the thermoplastic material in a non-
flowing state while retaining a suitable resilience to provide
desired cushioning. The thermoplastic material (20) may
also be injected into an abnormal curvature of the spine to
correct the abnormal curvature. The preferred thermoplastic
material is gutta percha or a gutta percha compound.

22 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

